

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the Office Action mailed August 28, 2007.
Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,560,302 to Shim et al. ("Shim") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,979,192 to Shimizume et al. ("Shimizume"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a synchronization signal detection apparatus characterized by comprising:

synchronization signal detection means for inputting a signal formed by a frame in accordance with a predetermined format to detect a synchronization signal to be inserted into said frame,

interpolation means for interpolating a synchronization signal generated according to detection timing of said synchronization signal detected by said synchronization signal detection means as a reproducing synchronization signal when said synchronization signal detection means is unable to detect any synchronization signal within a predetermined detection period,

judgment means for performing judgment about whether said synchronization signal continuously detected by said synchronization signal detection means is at normal timing or not under a predetermined condition after a start of the interpolation of said synchronization signal by said interpolation means,

forward guard counter means for measuring a duration during which the synchronization signal detection means is unable to detect any synchronization signal within the predetermined detection period, and

resynchronization means for outputting said synchronization signal detected by said synchronization signal detection means as a reproducing synchronization signal according to a judgment result of said judgment means or when the duration measured by said forward guard counter means exceeds a predetermined time period.

All of these features are not taught or suggested by Shim, Shimizume, or any combination thereof. For example, neither of these references teaches or suggests an apparatus comprising both the recited judgment means and the recited forward guard counter means. As

illustrated in Figs. 4 and 5, Applicants' claimed invention employs two separate means by which resynchronization can be triggered. This allows the claimed apparatus to recover the proper synchronization signal under a variety of circumstances and reduces the duration of improper synchronization. At best, Shim may arguably teach using either a predetermined number of generated sync signals, (Shim 2:16-20), *or* the so-called "sync noise canceller," (Shim 3:1-5), for resetting the synchronization means. (*See also* Shim Fig. 5). Shim fails to teach simultaneously using two different means for resetting the synchronization means. Thus the relied upon references fail to teach or suggest all of the recited claim limitations and do not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. MPEP § 2143.

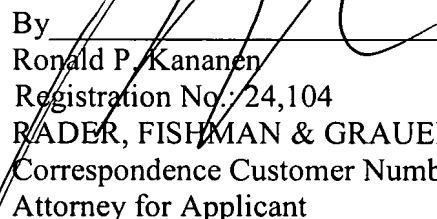
For at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentable over these references. Furthermore, claim 2, which is dependent on claim 1 and incorporates all of the limitations recited therein, is also patentable for at least these reasons. Additionally, claim 3, which recited similar limitations as claim 1, is also patentable for at least similar reasons. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. SON-2787 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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